With this response, no claims are changed.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A node-and-strut structure comprising:

a set of at least six vertebrae each including one left-hand strut having a proximal portion and a distal portion, one right-hand strut having a proximal portion and a distal portion, and one primary node rigidly engaging the left-hand strut's proximal portion and the right-hand strut's proximal portion, a primary axis passing through each of the primary nodes, the primary nodes each including at least 1% metal by weight, the left-hand struts all being nominally mutually parallel also;

several left-hand nodes each bearing against a respective one of said left-hand struts' distal portions such that a left-hand axis lying in a baseplane with the primary axis passes through each of the left-hand nodes, the left-hand axis forming with each of the left-hand struts an acute angle about equal to $j \times 20.9^{\circ} + k \times 31.7^{\circ} + m \times 36^{\circ} + n \times 37.4^{\circ}$, where j, k, m, and n are each an integer ≥ 0 ; and

several right-hand nodes each bearing against a respective one of said right-hand struts' distal portions such that a right-hand axis parallel to the baseplane passes through each of the right-hand nodes, the right-hand axis forming with each of the right-hand struts an acute angle about equal to $p\times20.9^{\circ} + q\times31.7^{\circ} + r\times36^{\circ} + s\times37.4^{\circ}$, where p, q, r, and s are each an integer ≥ 0 .

- 2. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which said nodes each primarily comprise an iron-containing alloy.
- 3. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which said nodes each include at least 1% metal by weight.
- 4. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which said struts each include at least 1% carbon fiber by weight.

- 5. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which all of said acute angles that are formed with the left-hand axis are within 0.4° of $j \times 20.9^{\circ} + k \times 31.7^{\circ} + m \times 36^{\circ} + n \times 37.4^{\circ}$.
- 6. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which said left-hand and right-hand nodes each have a metallic surface bearing against a respective one of said distal portions.
- 7. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which the left-hand and right-hand struts of each of the vertebrae form a primary angle therebetween that is nominally equal to an acute angle of $b\times20.9^{\circ} + d\times31.7^{\circ} + e\times35.3^{\circ} + f\times36^{\circ}$, where b, d, e, and f are each an integer \geq 0.
- 8. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which the left-hand and right-hand struts of each of the vertebrae form a primary angle therebetween that is nominally complementary to an acute angle of $b\times20.9^{\circ} + d\times31.7^{\circ} + e\times35.3^{\circ} + f\times36^{\circ}$, where b, d, e, and f are each an integer ≥ 0 .
- 9. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which the left-hand and right-hand struts of each of the vertebrae form a primary angle therebetween that is nominally complementary to an acute angle of $b\times20.9^{\circ} + d\times31.7^{\circ} + e\times35.3^{\circ} + f\times36^{\circ}$, where b is a positive integer and d, e, and f are each an integer ≥ 0 .
- 10. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which the left-hand and right-hand struts of each of the vertebrae form a primary angle therebetween that is nominally complementary to an acute angle of $b\times20.9^{\circ} + d\times31.7^{\circ} + e\times35.3^{\circ} + f\times36^{\circ}$, where d is a positive integer and b, e, and f are each an integer ≥ 0 .
- 11. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which the left-hand and right-hand struts of each of the vertebrae form a primary angle therebetween that is nominally complementary to an acute angle of $b\times20.9^{\circ} + c\times30^{\circ} + d\times31.7^{\circ} + e\times35.3^{\circ} + f\times36^{\circ} + g\times37.4^{\circ}$, where b, c, d, e, f, and g are each an integer \geq 0.
- 12. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which the set of vertebrae are nominally regularly spaced.

- 13. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which j>0.
- 14. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which k>0.
- 15. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which j=p=0.
- 16. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which k=q=0.
- 17. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which m=r=0.
- 18. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1, further comprising several additional strut ends each bearing against a corresponding one of the left-hand nodes.
- 19. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 18 in which the number of said additional strut ends is exactly T, where T is at least 4.
- 20. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1 in which the set of vertebrae includes at least eight vertebrae.
- 21. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1, further including several inter-primary struts each coupled to a corresponding pair of the primary nodes.
- 22. (Original) The node-and-strut structure of claim 1, in which said nodes and several additional nodes are all positioned exteriorly so as to form an oblong shape substantially resembling a tube having an elliptical cross section, further comprising several other, interiorly-positioned nodes.

- 23. (Original) A method of making a node-and-strut structure comprising steps of:
- (a) assembling a set of at least six vertebrae each including one left-hand strut having a proximal portion and a distal portion, one right-hand strut having a proximal portion and a distal portion, and one primary node rigidly engaging the left-hand strut's proximal portion and the right-hand strut's proximal portion, a primary axis passing through each of the primary nodes, the primary nodes each including at least 1% metal by weight, the left-hand struts all being nominally mutually parallel, the right-hand struts all being nominally mutually parallel also;
- (b) bringing several left-hand nodes each to bear against a respective one of said left-hand struts' distal portions such that a left-hand axis lying in a baseplane with the primary axis passes through each of the left-hand nodes, the left-hand axis forming with each of the left-hand struts an acute angle about equal to $j\times20.9^{\circ} + k\times31.7^{\circ} + m\times36^{\circ} + n\times37.4^{\circ}$, where j, k, m, and n are each an integer ≥ 0 ; and
- (c) bringing several right-hand nodes each to bear against a respective one of said right-hand struts' distal portions such that a right-hand axis parallel to the baseplane passes through each of the right-hand nodes, the right-hand axis forming with each of the right-hand struts an acute angle about equal to $p\times20.9^{\circ} + q\times31.7^{\circ} + r\times36^{\circ} + s\times37.4^{\circ}$, where p, q, r, and s are each an integer ≥ 0 .
- 24. (Original) The method of claim 23, further including a triangulation step (d) of adding to said node-and-strut structure several additional nodes and several additional struts so that all of the nodes each bear against at least 3 of the struts that are not nominally mutually coplanar.
- 25. (Original) The method of claim 24 in which said struts each have an actual length that is nominally included in a predefined length set consisting of 6 lengths.